

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043587

44

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

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CAB - MR. BURCH

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EUR/CAN - MR. BROWN

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P R 051738Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AIRLINE MOVE TO CGD AIRPORT

REF: (A) PARIS 5277; (B) PARIS 5336

1. IT IS EVIDENT THAT EMBASSY'S VIGOROUS REPRESENTATIONS HAVE NOT ONLY ALERTED SGAC TO STRONG INTEREST OF USG IN THIS ISSUE, BUT HAVE ALSO CONVINCED FRENCH THEY ARE OBLIGATED TO IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF CONNECTING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO US AIRLINES AT CDG. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH FRENCH EMBASSY(MARCH 4) FOLLOWING LINE TAKEN BY EMBASSY IN PARIS. WE ARE ALSO DRAFTING NOTE FOR EMBASSY'S USE IN FORMAL DEMARCHE TO FONOFF, IF IN EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT SUCH STEP BECOMES NECESSARY. THRUST OF NOTE WILL BE THAT US AIRLINES CANNOT BE FORCED TO TRANSFER OPERATIONS TO CDG UNTIL ADEQUATE CONNECTING SERVICES BECOME AVAILABLE THERE; BASIS FOR ARGUMENT

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PAGE 02 STATE 043587

RESIDES IN (1) FAIR AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CLAUSE; (2) IN

SECTION III OF ANNEX TO BILATERAL; AND (3) ARTICLE 15 OF CHICAGO CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION.

2. GRIMAUD'S REPRIEVE FOR PAN AM WOULD SEEM TO OBVIATE IMMEDIATE NEED TO CONFRONT FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE. (TWA, WHICH HAS LONG SINCE INITIATED STEPS TO TRANSFER TO CDG, CANNOT AT THIS LATE DATE HALT PROCESS, DUE FOR COMPLETION MARCH 13. HOWEVER, TWA HERE, TOO, ASSOCIATES ITSELF WITH PAN AM'S CONCERN OVER THE POOR QUALITY OF CONNECTIONS

AT CDG.) PAN AM'S CURRENT PLANS ARE TO REMAIN AT ORLY UNTIL ADEQUATE CONNECTIONS ARE PROVIDED AT CDG, BUT TO PLEDGE THAT TRANSFER WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES ON CDG CONNECTIONS. THUS, WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE NOTHING WE CAN DO TO FORESTALL DAMAGE TO TWA'S INTERESTS IN SHORT TERM, OUR SUPPORT OF DELAY IN MOVING BY PAN AM SHOULD PROVIDE INCENTIVE TO FRENCH TO SCHEDULE ADEQUATE CDG CONNECTIONS AT EARLY DATE, AND THUS SERVE BASIC LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF BOTH AIRLINES.

3. WE WELCOME CANADIAN ROLE IN CDG ISSUE AND REQUEST THAT EMBASSY COORDINATE WITH CANADIANS AS APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER

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